

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner.

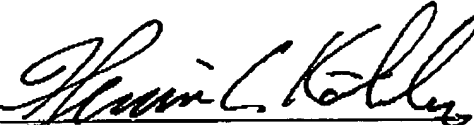
Claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 18-20 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 9-16 had been withdrawn from the Office's consideration.

The Examiner contacted the undersigned on August 10, 2006, and indicated a Notice of Allowance was to be issued and requested permission to cancel the previously withdrawn claims so as to proceed with the allowance. The undersigned agreed to cancel the previously withdrawn claims, Claims 9-16, without prejudice, so as to expedite prosecution. Applicants, of course, reserve the right to claim the subject matter of the canceled claims in a later filed continuing application.

The Examiner again contacted the undersigned on August 14, 2006, and indicated a "Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings" was needed before the notice of allowance could be issued. Applicants' hereby amended the specification so as to add the requested section.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1, 2, and 4-8, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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August 15, 2006

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